




U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, D.C. 20534

**MEMORANDUM FOR INSTITUTION SAFETY ADMINISTRATORS &
HEALTH SERVICE ADMINISTRATORS**

FROM:


CAPT Sylvie I. Cohen, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Chief, Occupational Safety & Health Branch
Health Services Division


CAPT Michael Windsor Johnson, DDS, MPH
National Chief Dentist

Cc:

Regional Safety Administrators
Regional Health Services Administrators

SUBJECT: Dental clinic engineering controls

In addition to the administrative controls documented in the BOP's dental interim guidance, engineering controls aim to further decrease the potential spread of COVID-19 in a patient treatment setting. In the interest of safely increasing the number of dental patients that can be treated, the BOP Dental Program in conjunction with the Occupational Safety & Health Branch have put together a list of recommendations for engineering controls in line with the CDC's recommendations.

Engineering controls:

1. All aerosol-generating procedures will require a chairside dental assistant, a high evacuation suction, and dental dam.
2. All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for specific procedures is expected to be worn as described in previous documents.

3. The HVAC systems air changes per hour (ACH)¹ in the Dental clinics is ideally set at 15 ACH.
 - Consult with your HVAC/facilities staff to determine if your clinic's HVAC unit can be programmed to 15 ACH.
 - If the clinic's HVAC system cannot achieve 15 ACH, it is recommended that clinics supplement with a portable solution (e.g., portable HEPA filtration units).
4. Patient chairs should be at least 6 feet apart and operatories should be separated by a physical barrier.² When determining the best patient separation for your clinic:
 - Spacing out individuals receiving care to every other chair (50% capacity).
 - Using "Shields on Wheels" described as a piece of plexiglass wider than the length of chair and no higher than 7 feet on wheels that can be moved around as to not interfere with sprinkler system.
 - Consult with your safety department regarding egress requirements and building fire protection systems.
 - Consult with Correctional Services regarding the safety and security of the dental clinic with altered sight lines.

¹ CDC Infection Control – Airborne Contaminant Removal
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/appendix/air.html#tableb1>

² CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>